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ABSTRACT

This document describes two- and three-year colleges in Korea, which produce middle-level technicians equipped with a solid base in both theory and practical skills. The colleges' goals are: (1) to contribute to national development by producing leading technicians to industries; (2) to realize the idea of lifelong education through a variety of short-term adult education; (3) to allow workers to have opportunities for retraining; and (4) to popularize higher education. The colleges have been awarding associate degrees to graduates since 1997. The most common major is early childhood education; others include nursing, industrial design, architecture, office automation, civil engineering, electricity, food and nutrition, information and communication, and computer science. These programs take two to three years to complete, depending on the courses. The colleges' enrollments represent 42% of all higher education in Korea. This document also describes the history of Korean colleges and their development since their establishment in 1979. The colleges' predecessors were vocational higher schools, but the length of study was five years--too long a period to make timely supply of technical experts. By 1979, these higher schools were phased out, and the two- and three-year colleges replaced them. Appended is a directory of colleges. (EMH)

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